



Offer #401-HHS-007

Child Welfare, Juvenile Justice and Community Services

This offer includes the following appropriations: Child and Family Services, Volunteers and Child Abuse Prevention

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Program Description:

This offer provides for the delivery of an array of community based services and interventions for children who have been or are at-risk of being abused or neglected, children who are determined to be a child in need of assistance (CINA), youth who are at risk of being or have been adjudicated delinquent, and youth transitioning from foster care to adulthood.

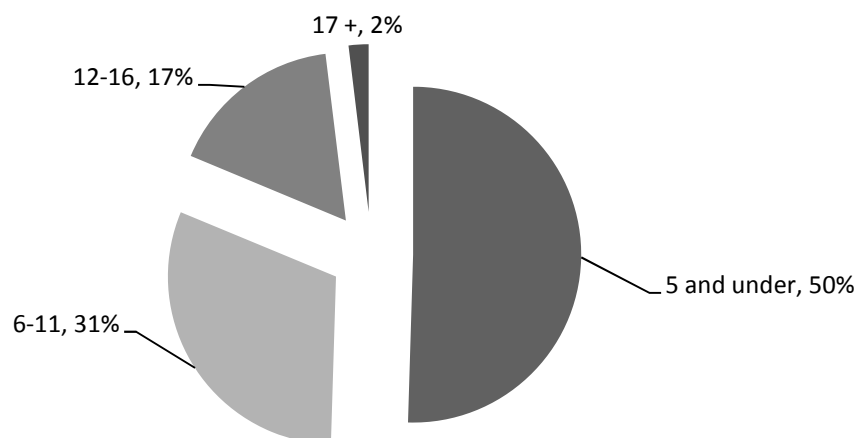
Who:

Child Abuse

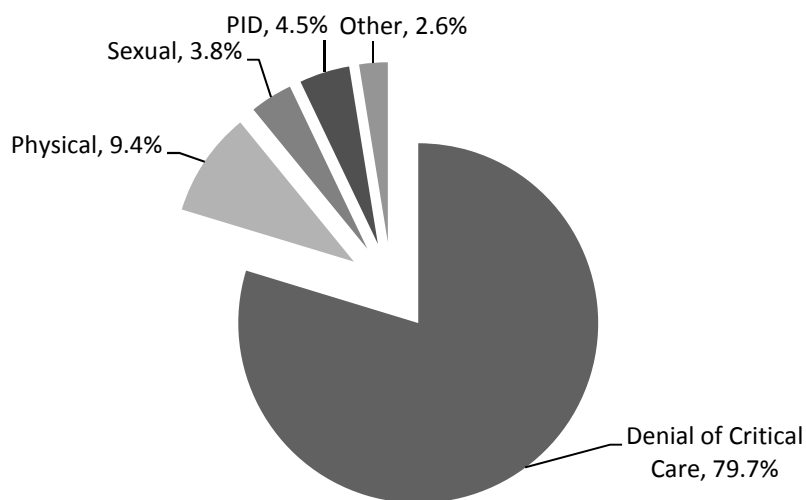
In SFY 2011, a total of 11,961 children were confirmed or found to be the victims of child abuse or neglect. The following charts provide a profile of the age and type of abuse experienced by these victims. These charts show the following:

- Over half are age 5 or younger.
- Over 80% are victims of denial of critical care, or neglect. Examples of denial of critical care include parents leaving very young children home alone with no adult supervision exposing them to significant risk, failing to provide medical care when needed by the child, or neglecting an infant to the extent that the infant fails to grow and develop. Often, denial of critical care is associated with parental substance abuse or significant mental health issues.
- The number of confirmed cases of sexual abuse increased to 3.8% in SFY 2011. It is too early to say if this represents a turn-around in the downward trend that was seen in past years. This category represented 4.2% of the child abuse victims in SFY 2006, 3.8% in SFY 2009 and 3.8% in SFY 2011

SFY 2011 Child Abuse and Neglect Victims by Age



SFY2011 Child Abuse Victims by Type of Abuse

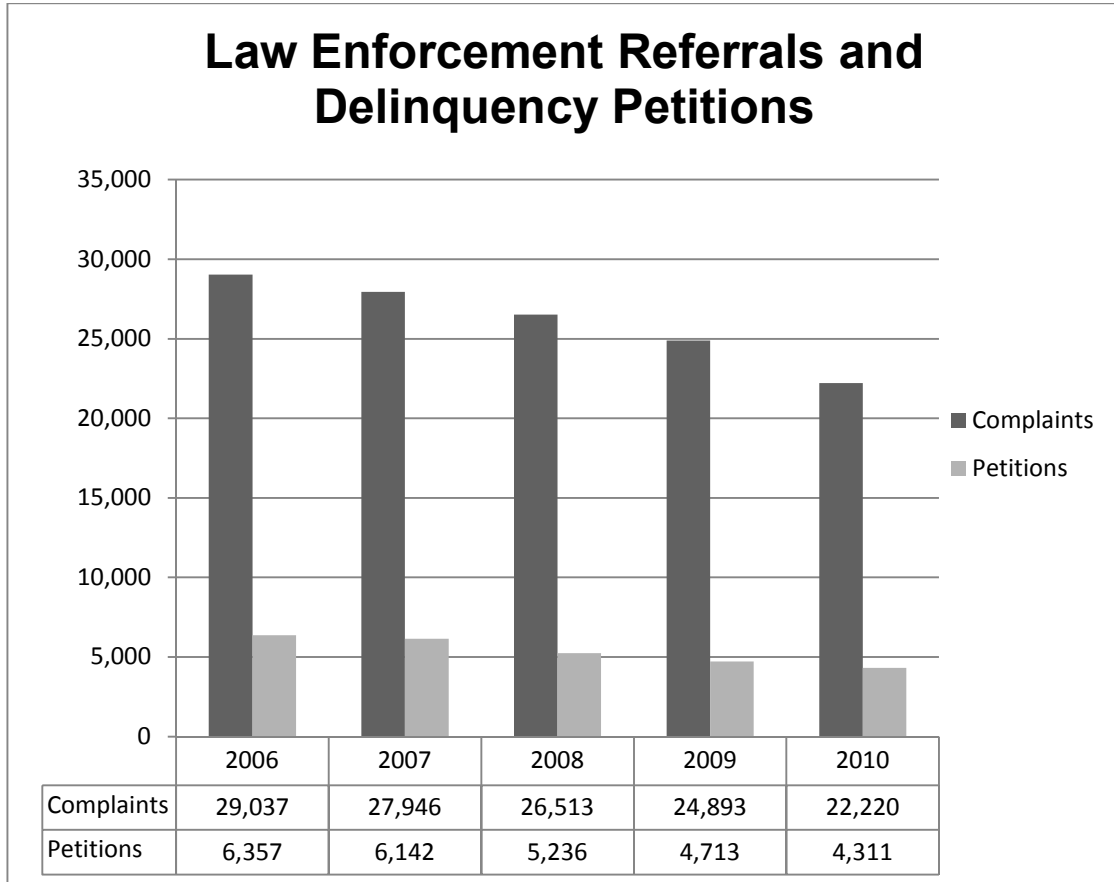


*Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

*PID refers to “presence of illegal drugs” in the child’s body. Other includes manufacturing drugs, mental injury and prostitution.

Juvenile Delinquency

Over 20,000 new youth are referred to Juvenile Court Services (JCS) each year. The following chart provides historical data on the number of law enforcement referrals and delinquency petitions.



Source: Calendar year 2010 data provided by the Department of Human Rights, Criminal Juvenile Justice Planning Division.

- A complaint is a referral from law enforcement on a law violation by a youth; one youth can have more than one complaint in a year. A petition is the filing of the legal complaint by the County Attorney for court action on a youth.
- The percent of youth referred and later petitioned has decreased from 22% in 2006 to 19% in 2010.
- The Recidivism Report below is generated by the Department of Human Rights, Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice, and shows that a majority of juveniles who receive intervention from the juvenile justice system are not referred for another complaint for the period of time reviewed (2008-12/31/2010).

Recidivism Report

Below are the DRAFT statewide 2010 figures (cases initiated in 2008, and subsequent complaints thru 12/31/2010).

Initial Cases (first time JCS Cases)	# of Complaints Generated	Did NOT reoffend	All Reoffenders	Chronic Reoffenders (3+ Complaints)
11,854	19,746	7,752	3,884	956
		65.4%	32.8%	8.1%

Source: Justice Data Warehouse

Note Data reflects information from the Judicial Branch's Iowa Court Information System (ICIS). The data are a reflection of the official records contained in ICIS at the time the information was extracted to the Iowa Justice Data Warehouse. Some edits to these records may have occurred within ICIS after the extraction; such updates would be made in the data warehouse during the next daily extraction. Thus it is possible that the data may change slightly from day-to-day as updated records are received.

The following is a breakdown by race and gender of youth served by JCS in 2009:

	TOTAL	Male	Female
Caucasian	73.3%	74.3%	70.5%
African-American	18.7%	17.5%	22.0%
Hispanic	6.1%	6.3%	5.7%
Native American	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.0%	0.8%	1.4%
Mixed/Other	0.07%	0.9%	0.2%
TOTAL SERVED	100.0%	73.3%	26.7%

(Source: Prepared by the Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning, Iowa Department of Human Right, 2009)

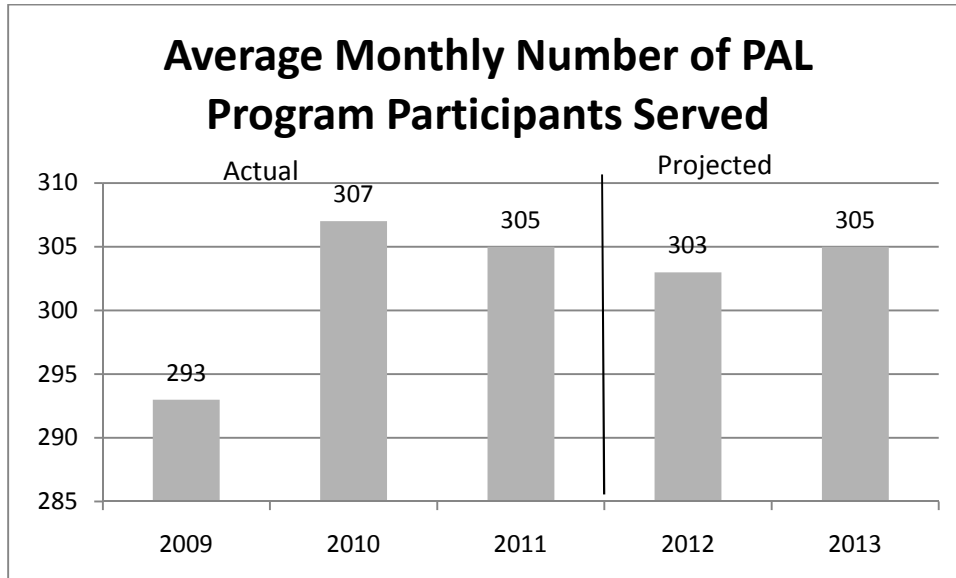
Transition from Foster Care to Successful Adulthood

In SFY 2010, 396 youth in Iowa exited foster care at age 18 or older; that is, they were neither reunited with their birth families by the time they reach 18 nor placed in a permanent family through adoption or guardianship; of these youth, 361 left State paid foster care.

DHS transition services include a variety of State and Federally funded services for children in foster care or those who have recently "aged out" of foster care to better prepare them for the challenges and opportunities that adulthood presents, and to ensure that resources invested while they are young pay off over the long term.

The Preparation for Adult Living Program (PAL) is a voluntary service for youth age 18-21. PAL serves Iowa youth who leave State-paid foster care at the age of 18 or older and who are no longer eligible for voluntary foster care and who are engaged in one or both of the following:

- Enrollment in a post secondary educational training program or work training
- Employment



Source: Iowa Aftercare Services Program

What:

Through this offer, DHS provides an array of child welfare and juvenile justice services to respond to child abuse reports, child in need of assistance referrals and juvenile delinquency reports.

Child Abuse and Child in Need of Assistance (CINA)

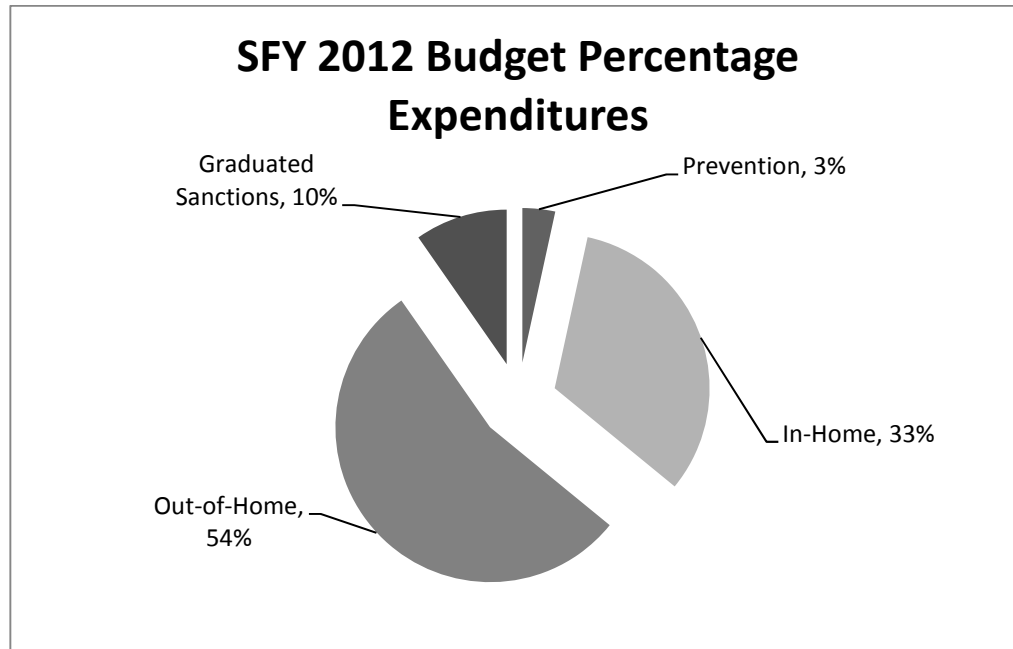
DHS provides the following services in response to child abuse and CINA referrals.

- Statewide child abuse hotline that enables persons to report suspected child abuse and neglect 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Assessments in response to child abuse reports and child in need of assistance referrals.
- Supervision and case management when continued DHS involvement is needed to address the factors that place the child at risk of future abuse or neglect.
- Community based prevention and early intervention services.
 - Prevention (e.g., child abuse prevention grants, decategorization services)
 - Early intervention services for at-risk children and families (e.g., Community Care, Community Partnerships for Protecting Children, and Decategorization Services)
- Formal child welfare services, including the assignment of a DHS caseworker to supervise the child's safety and coordinate services. Following are the types of services that DHS provides to these children and families through contracts with community based agencies. Some of these services are provided on a voluntary basis,

while others are provided as the result of a Juvenile Court Child in Need of Assistance (CINA) adjudication.

- Family team decision-making meetings (FTDM)
- Drug testing and parental evaluations
- In-home supports and services (e.g., protective child care, safety plan services, family safety, risk and permanency services)
- Out-of-home placement services (e.g., relative home studies, family foster care, shelter care, group care, and supervised apartment living)
- Permanency services (e.g., reunification services, permanency planning, adoption, and guardianship)
- Transition services for foster care youth age 16 to 18 to prepare them for adulthood
- DHS staff also participate in Federal, State and community partnerships (e.g., Decategorization and Community Partnerships for Protecting Children) focused on child protection.

The following chart provides information on the breakdown of services between prevention, in- home and out-of-home.



Juvenile Delinquency Complaint

Juvenile Court Services (JCS), which is part of the judicial branch, responds to complaints of law violations by a juvenile. They conduct assessments of risk and protective factors (including criminal history, education, employment, family, alcohol/drug use, mental health, attitudes and behaviors, aggression and skills), and determine the appropriate level of intervention. Interventions include the following.

- Diversion from juvenile justice system entirely
- Informal adjustments
- Consent decree
- Delinquency adjudication
- Waiver to adult court

Although Juvenile Court Services (JCS) supervises youth adjudicated delinquent, DHS funds an array of juvenile justice services that are provided by community based agencies under contract with DHS and JCS.

- Prevention services (e.g., decategorization funded services)
- Early intervention services (e.g., school-based liaisons)
- Graduated sanction services (e.g., life skills, tracking and monitoring, supervised community treatment, and court ordered services)
- Out-of-home placement services (e.g., family foster care, shelter care, group care, and supervised apartment living)
- Transition services for foster care youth age 16 to 18 to prepare them for adulthood
- Juvenile drug courts
- Detention
- Over the last six years, JCS has worked to incorporate evidence based practices into their work based on a risk and needs assessment now being used throughout the State, including aggression replacement training, functional family therapy, and drug courts.

Transition from Foster Care to Successful Adulthood

The Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) Program provides three additional years of support to allow young adults exiting foster care at age 18 more time to mature, learn skills to survive as adults, and to build the relationships that will be their support in adulthood.

Specifically, the PAL program provides financial support to eligible youth who are receiving aftercare services. Aftercare services include case management support and services linking youth to community resources to assist them in their transition to self-sufficiency.

In SFY 2011, youth enrolled in Iowa's PAL Program were eligible for additional financial support via a monthly stipend at a maximum of \$574 as well as aftercare case management services. The amount of the stipend depends on a youth's earned and unearned income, as well as need.

Regulatory

- DHS also regulates providers who serve children in either the child welfare or juvenile justice systems, and conducts evaluations of persons who have a criminal history or founded abuse report in a variety of programs serving children.

How:

Program

DHS contracts with community based agencies or other organizations to provide the following services and activities.

- *Prevention*: Includes child abuse prevention and adolescent pregnancy prevention.
- *Early intervention services*: Statewide early intervention services to at-risk children and families referred by DHS child protective assessment workers.
- *Child welfare services*: Includes child welfare services such as safety plan services; family safety, risk and permanency services; resource family recruitment and support; family foster care; group care; child welfare emergency services (an array of short term

interventions including non-placement, least restrictive alternatives to emergency juvenile shelter placement and the most restrictive, out-of-home placement into juvenile shelter), and supervised apartment living services.

- *Juvenile justice services:* Includes graduated sanction programs (i.e., school-based supervision, adolescent tracking, supervised community treatment, and life skills), drug courts, and out-of-home placement for youth adjudicated delinquent (e.g., group care). Note that the graduated sanction programs are three-party contracts that include DHS, JCS, and the community based provider which includes reimbursement for a portion of the costs of county-operated detention facilities.
- *Training:* Includes contracts with Iowa State University to provide training to DHS child welfare staff and with the Coalition for Family and Children's Services in Iowa to provide training to private child welfare providers.
- *Legal services:* Funds staff in the Attorney General's Office to represent DHS in child welfare cases before the trial court, administrative appeals, Court of Appeals and Supreme Court.
- *The Preparation for Adult Living (PAL)* program includes case management, assisting the youth in developing self-sufficiency plans, counseling, assisting with community referrals for services, and assisting the youth in securing employment, applying for SSI and other benefits, and completing the financial aid forms for youth wanting to attend college. The PAL component is primarily State-funded but has been supplemented in the past 3 years with Federal funds from the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP).

Service Delivery

Staff in DHS local offices provide the following services.

- *Centralized Service Intake Unit (CSIU):* As part of the DHS Field reorganization, a new centralized child and dependent adult abuse intake unit was rolled out in SFY 2011. This new unit allows DHS to operate within a larger and ever changing system of care. A statewide system ensures that all reports of suspected child/dependent adult abuse and neglect, as well as referrals for CINA assessments are consistently and appropriately screened across the State. The CSIU includes the child abuse hotline. The centralized unit is comprised of 25 intake staff, consolidated from previous field staffing levels of 33 staff. Staff at CSIU make the determination to accept or reject abuse reports. All accepted reports are transferred to child abuse assessment staff in local offices.
- *Child abuse assessments:* Approximately 199 DHS child protection staff in local offices (with an average caseload of 13 families SFY 2011) assess whether child abuse/neglect has occurred, as well as child safety and continued risk for the child. Responsibilities include face-to-face contact with the child and family to assess safety and risk; interviewing the child and all household members, as well as others that might have information (e.g., physicians, teachers, counselors, etc.); arranging for further medical or forensic evaluations of the child; and completing all written reports and notifications.

In some cases, child protective staff investigate jointly with law enforcement. If a child needs to be removed from the home to ensure safety, staff work with the county attorney to obtain the necessary court order. Staff also determine if a report should be placed on the child abuse registry.

In SFY 2011 DHS completed assessments on 28,697 reports of potential child abuse, determined that 11,961 individual children were victims of child abuse, and determined that at least one perpetrator should be placed on the central abuse registry in 8,890 reports of child abuse. (Note that staff conduct similar activities for referrals related to dependent adult abuse, neglect or exploitation. In SFY 2011, 2,888 evaluations of dependent adult abuse were performed and 500 perpetrators were placed on the central abuse registry.)

- *Family foster care record check evaluations and home study approval:* Service Area staff evaluate child abuse and/or criminal history when foster family applicants have a positive record check, and make the final decision on family foster care licensing.
- *Eligibility determination:* Service Area staff determine eligibility for Medicaid, TANF funding, and Title IV-E funding for all children in foster care, including those supervised by Juvenile Court Services.
- *Case management:* Approximately 504 DHS local office child welfare staff provide case management for children who need services to address safety, permanency and well-being (e.g., physical health care, behavioral health, and education). The SFY 2011 average caseload for a case manager was 29 families. DHS case management responsibilities include: engaging the family and their team to develop the child and family's case permanency plan; helping children and families access services funded by DHS, as well as services funded by other departments and organizations (e.g., substance abuse treatment, mental health services, etc.); visiting the child and parents regularly; continuously assessing child safety and risk; arranging for placement of children out-of-home as needed; ensuring that children that are placed out-of-home have opportunities to see and interact with their parents and siblings regularly; overseeing the work of contracted providers; providing regular reports to the Juvenile Court for all non-voluntary cases and testifying in court as necessary; and assisting youth that "age out" of foster care in the transition to young adulthood.
- *Community referrals:* DHS local office child welfare staff also work with families that are not involved with the formal child welfare system to access community based services such as community care and other voluntary services.
- *Community planning and coordination:* Service Area Managers and other local office staff participate in activities in the local community to plan and coordinate services for vulnerable children and families. Staff develop and maintain positive working relationships with a number of community entities including Juvenile Court, county attorneys and other attorneys, the medical community, schools and AEA's, court appointed special advocates (CASA's), mental health providers, substance abuse providers, local law enforcement, and local advocacy groups, etc. Without these relationships, DHS could not keep children safe or achieve permanency and well-being outcomes.
- *Juvenile Court Officers:* Approximately 175 JCS staff provide case management and supervision for youth who are adjudicated delinquent or who receive juvenile justice services. JCS is part of the Judicial Department and costs associated with JCS are not included in this budget offer.
- *Preparation for Adult Living:* Youth in PAL receive aftercare case management services in addition to the PAL stipend through a contractual arrangement with a network of child welfare providers (known as the Iowa Aftercare Services Network).

Service Support

Staff in DHS central office provide the following activities to support child welfare programs and service delivery.

- *Contract management*: Includes managing the procurement process and monitoring contractor performance for both child welfare and juvenile justice programs funded under this offer.
- *Licensing*: DHS licenses all child-caring and child-placing agencies that provide foster care services. The Department of Inspection and Appeals (DIA) completes the licensing investigation and makes a recommendation to DHS.
- *Interstate compacts*: Includes managing the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) and the Interstate Compact on Juveniles (ICJ). Iowa's ICPC office handles placements of children across state lines, including court placements with parents or relatives, foster care and adoptions. In SFY 2011 the ICPC office processed over 2,727 requests and handled 1,471 placements. Of the 1,471 placements, 742 were for children placed outside of Iowa, and 729 were children placed into Iowa. Iowa's ICJ office handles the placement of children across state lines that are adjudicated delinquent including conducting home studies and supervision of children.

The Iowa ICJ office also administers the program for runaway and supervision of delinquent youth children across state lines. In SFY 2011 the ICJ office handled 289 cases; of these, 13 cases were runaways, escapee's, absconders and/or juveniles charged as delinquent from Iowa being returned, 95 cases were runaways, escapee's, absconders and/or juveniles charged as delinquent from other states returned, 30 were parole supervision cases, and 151 were probation supervision cases.

- *Information technology*: Includes Iowa's child welfare information system that issues payments and sustains Federal claiming, supports caseworker activities, and is the source for child welfare related data.
- *Federal programs*: Includes completing all state plans, state plan amendments, and program reporting required to claim Federal funding; as well as preparation for periodic Federal program reviews (i.e., IV-E eligibility and claiming reviews, and the Federal Child and Family Service Review).
- *Financial accountability*: Includes budgeting, accounting, Federal/State reporting, cost allocation, and audit coordination and resolution.
- *Program support*: Includes developing and maintaining the administrative rules and employees' manual for child protection, all child welfare programs, and for the graduated sanction programs, to ensure that Iowa's programs comply with all relevant State and Federal laws and regulations.
- *Program monitoring*: Includes tracking program outcomes, developing and implementing program improvement plans, and providing data to staff, policy makers and the general public.
- *Constituent relations*: Includes responding to constituent complaints and questions, appeals, and requests for exceptions to policy.
- *Relations with stakeholders and partners*: Includes work with key stakeholders and partners, including Juvenile Court, child welfare providers, foster and adoptive parents, substance abuse treatment providers, domestic violence agencies, county attorneys and attorneys that represent parents and children, birth parents, foster care youth and alumni, schools and the educational community, medical community, Native American tribes, etc.

- *Provider payment:* Includes distributing client benefits and provider/vendor payments.
- *Advisory Committees and interagency committees/workgroups:* Includes providing administrative support to the Child Welfare Advisory Committee and Child Protection Council; and participation in several interagency groups such as the Child Death Review Committee, the Children's Justice State Council, and Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development, etc.
- *Corporate leadership:* Includes overall agency strategic management and accountability for the achievement of results.

Results Achieved:

Result:	SFY 2011 Actual Level	SFY 2012 Projected Level	SFY 2013 Offer Level
Percentage of children who do not experience repeat abuse and neglect within 6 months (Data source: administrative data)	91.3%	91.2%	91.2%
Percentage of children exiting foster care who do not re-enter foster care within 12 months of last foster care episode (Data source: administrative data)	86.5%	90.7%	90.7%
Percentage of children having monthly face-to-face visits with their DHS caseworker (Data source: case reading) *	84%	75%	75%
Percentage of parents having monthly face-to-face visits with their DHS caseworker (Data source: case reading) *	58%	46%	46%
Participants finish high school or receive a GED **	77%	83%	83%
Percentage of participants who are employed and/or are attending school. **	73%	80%	80%

* Numbers of face-to-face visits expected to decrease due to staffing reductions associated with reduced funding.

** Source: Iowa Aftercare Services Annual Report 2010

Sustaining service delivery assumes the level of funding requested in the offer as well as full funding of salary adjustment. If funding is insufficient in either area, results to be achieved will be modified to reflect the impact.

Impact of Proposed Budget on Results:

Current Results:

This offer provides a comprehensive response focused on protecting children from abuse and neglect and responding to juvenile delinquency.

At the current service level, this offer would maintain core child welfare and juvenile justice services at the level funded in SFY 2012. This would include the following:

- Prevention and early intervention, including child abuse prevention grants, Community Care, decategorization, and adolescent pregnancy prevention.
- Child protection, including the State child abuse hotline, child abuse related medical tests, and intake and assessments of child abuse reports.
- Child welfare and juvenile justice contracted services, including the following:
 - Safety and permanency services to an average of over 5,000 families per month.
 - Graduated sanction programs, including tracking and monitoring services to over 1,800 youth per month, day programming to over 500 youth per month, life skills to almost 400 youth per month, and school based supervision to over 200 youth per month.
 - Family foster care to an average of over 2,234 children per month.
 - Group care to an average of 800 children and youth per month.
 - Child welfare emergency services, including community based interventions provided as alternatives to shelter placement to an average of 85 children per month and shelter care placement to an average of 195 children per day.
 - Supervised apartment living to an average of 46 youth per month.
 - Child welfare case management and supervision by DHS staff in local offices, including efforts to achieve safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes; and to prepare older youth for the transition from foster care to young adulthood.
 - This offer continues the PAL program for youth under age 21 who were in a State-paid foster care placement when they turned age 18 and met eligibility criteria on or after May 1, 2006. SFY 2013 will mark the seventh year of the PAL program. Enrollment is expected to remain stable at approximately 303 youth per month in SFY 2012 and 305 youth per month in SFY 2013.

In SFY 2011, the Federal Children's Bureau conducted Iowa's second Child and Family Service Review (CFSR). The CFSR focused on safety, permanency and child and family well-being outcomes, as well as seven systemic factors. Iowa met the following national data indicators and was in substantial conformity with the following systemic factors:

- National Data Indicators
 - Absence of Maltreatment of Children in Foster Care
 - Permanency Composite 2: Timely Adoptions
 - Permanency Composite 3: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care

- Systemic Factors:
 - Statewide Information System
 - Case Review System
 - Staff and Provider Training
 - Agency Responsiveness to the Community
 - Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention

Iowa did not meet or was not in substantial conformity with the following national data indicators, seven outcomes, and two systemic factors:

- National Data Indicators:
 - Absence of Maltreatment Recurrence
 - Permanency Composite 1: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification
 - Permanency Composite 4: Placement Stability
- Outcomes:
 - Safety Outcome 1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.
 - Safety Outcome 2: Children are safely maintained in their homes, whenever possible and appropriate.
 - Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.
 - Permanency Outcome 2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.
 - Well-Being Outcome 1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.
 - Well-Being Outcome 2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.
 - Well-Being Outcome 3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.
- Systemic Factors:
 - Quality Assurance System
 - Service Array and Resource Development

States that fail to meet Federal expectations in the CFSR, including annual targets for monthly visits with children in foster care, must develop and implement a Program Improvement Plan (PIP). DHS and child welfare partners developed Iowa's PIP, with implementation beginning in SFY 2012 and continuing through early SFY 2014. States must successfully implement their PIP within a two-year implementation period with an additional third year for performance monitoring and evaluation. If states fail to successfully implement their PIP, states are subject to enforcement of financial penalties ranging from 1% to 5% of their Federal IV-B and IV-E funding.

Information regarding Iowa's CFSR, including the Children's Bureau's transmittal letter, executive summary, final report to Iowa and Iowa's PIP, is available on DHS' website at http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/Consumers/Child_Welfare/BR4K/CFSR/Child_and_Family_Service_Review.html.

DHS is engaged in a number of activities and strategies to improve safety, permanency and well-being outcomes for children and families served in the child welfare system. Following is a summary of some of the key activities planned for SFY 2012.

- Safety
 - Expand a joint protocol developed by DHS, the Department of Public Health and the Children's Justice of State Court Administration for working with families to address the relationship between substance abuse by a child's caretaker and child abuse and neglect.
 - Strengthen Community Partnerships for Protecting Children (CPPC).
 - Work with the medical community to expand access to medical consultation in child abuse cases.
- Permanency
 - Improve Family Team Decision-Making Meeting (FTDM) practice.
 - Improve placement stability through targeted Plan, Do, Study, Act (PDSAs) activities.
 - Conduct permanency roundtables for children in foster care in order to identify and develop permanent family connections and achieve permanency for children in foster care long-term.
 - Expand efforts to address disproportionate and disparity of outcomes for children in minority families across the State, in partnership with the Juvenile Court.
 - Work with the Juvenile Court to continue implementation of family drug courts.
 - Implement protocols to increase family interaction for children in foster care.
 - Implement the protocol of family finding and engagement to increase timely reunification of children with their parents or provide for permanency of children with their family relatives.
 - Continue coordination with the court system; Iowa's Model Court is piloting the Passport to Adulthood, a tool originated in New York. The Passport is a document containing information of the youth, including education, health, life skills and placement(s), both historical and current status.
 - Continue coordination with the Iowa Foster Care Youth Council and the Drake University Legal Center for increased youth leadership, advocacy, and promotion of legislation to better the child welfare system.
 - Increase peer-to-peer mentoring in the Education Training Voucher program and through the Iowa Foster Care Youth Council chapters.
 - Through the PAL program, continue to facilitate transitioning youth to involve healthy support systems and maintain relationships into adulthood.
- Well-being
 - Continue efforts to increase the frequency and quality of monthly worker visits with children and parents.
 - Expand efforts to identify, locate, and engage fathers and non-custodial parents.
 - Continue statewide expansion of the Parent Partners program, which pairs parents whose child has recently been removed from their home with parents that have had their child successfully returned home.
 - Work with Early Access to increase referrals for children under age 3 that are child abuse victims and/or in foster care to assess for developmental delays.

- Continue partnering between DHS, Juvenile Justice System, Department of Education and key stakeholders to not only meet requirements of Fostering Connections but to best meet youth educational needs.
- Expand the Iowa Transition Initiative and dream teams to additional communities in order to improve outcomes for youth transitioning out of foster care.
- Work with the health/medical community to improve health and dental care for children in foster care.
- Continue and expand partnerships with the Department of Education (DOE), Iowa Workforce Development (IWD), Workforce Investment Act (WIA), Job Corps, and Vocational Rehabilitation statewide programs to better coordinate employment training skills and job placement for youth in care and leaving care, with increased numbers of youth participating in the WIA program. Exploration the possibility of job training skills classes offered to youth in group care.
- Improve tracking and monitoring of youth that age out of care to ensure long-term well-being outcomes are achieved.
- Utilize the support services provided through the PAL program to ensure that every youth who participates has a self sufficiency plan addressing housing, employment, education, health, and relationships.

Quality Assurance (QA) System

- Improve the reliability and validity of the QA system regarding case reading data and the effectiveness of its use when assessing progress.
- Enhance supervision to support frontline practice through development of a model of supervisory practice.
- Implement Results Oriented Management (ROM) to assist management and supervisors in driving practice improvement and discussions with staff based on data analysis.

Service Array and Resource Development

- Continually assess effectiveness of services and make necessary changes to support safety, permanency, and well-being for children and families.
- Work with the Division of Mental Health and Disability Services to support development of an array of children's mental health services to improve capacity and access of mental health services for seriously mentally ill children and older youth.
- Improve cultural competency and responsiveness of child welfare system.

Juvenile Court Services (JCS) efforts have focused on the following:

- Utilize a standardized research based risk and needs assessment tool to focus on moderate and high risk youth and to guide service planning and decision-making.
- Implement motivational interviewing as a tool for engaging youth and parents.
- Incorporate evidence-based programs in their contracts with providers, including aggression replacement training, functional family therapy, and drug courts.
- Expand use of community based alternatives to detention, especially for youth that violate probation.
- Address the disproportionate confinement of minority youth.

Legal Requirements:

DHS strategies for addressing child abuse and neglect are shaped by Federal laws and regulations, as well as State laws and Supreme Court decisions.

Federal:

Child welfare services are governed under Title IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act, and under the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA). The Federal government provides funding for child welfare services, with Federal funding directed primarily toward out-of-home care and adoption, vs. services to respond to child abuse reports or to support intact families.

The Federal government also sets specific requirements and performance expectations, which are measured through the Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSR). Under the CFSR, states are expected to meet national standards on 7 outcomes related to child safety, permanency, and well-being. States are also expected to meet Federal standards related to how the state delivers services, including management information systems, case review, foster care recruitment and licensing, training, quality assurance, service array and responsiveness to community.

Federal requirements related to foster care and transition are contained in Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, especially the Chafee Foster Care Independence Act.

Section 477 of the Social Security Act requires the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) to develop a data collection system to track the independent living services States provide to youth and develop outcome measures that may be used to assess States' performance in operating their independent living programs. The law requires ACF to impose a penalty of between 1% and 5% of the State's annual allotment on any State that fails to comply with the reporting requirements.

State:

State requirements are found in Iowa Code chapters 232, 232B, 233, 234, 235, 235A, 237, 237B, and 238.